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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2977
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY 3996
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA PRIORITY 1622
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY 6326
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RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO PRIORITY 4527
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

UNCLAS TOKYO 001105

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

COMMERCE FOR NOAA - MARGARIDA YUAN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EAIR](#) [TSPA](#) [SENV](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: MEXT SUPPORTS GLOBAL CHANGE OBSERVATION MISSION
SATELLITE PROGRAMS

REF: A. SECSTATE 47278
[1](#)B. YUAN-COBBS 05/14/09 EMAIL

[1](#)1. (U) Sensitive but Unclassified. Please handle appropriately.

[1](#)2. (SBU) The EST Chief delivered ref A points and the letter contained in ref B from Commerce Under Secretary Lubchenco to Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Deputy Director-General Masaaki Tanaka May 15.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Tanaka said the GOJ recognizes the importance of the Global Change Observation Mission (GCOM) and supports continued cooperation between NOAA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) on the program. The GOJ intends to continue developing the GCOM series, he added, and referred to a chart contained in the draft of Japan's Basic Space Plan. He noted the chart shows the current proposal calls for launching the GCOM-W in 2011 and the GCOM-C in 2014. When asked if this represents a delay from the previous plan, Tanaka said while JAXA may have its own thoughts on a launch schedule, the GOJ has not given final approval to launch dates. However, he believes there has been no change from the previous plan regarding launch dates. Tanaka also mentioned the approximately USD 10 million in additional funding earmarked for GCOM under the current GOJ stimulus bill as further proof of Japan's commitment to the GCOM program.
ZUMWALT